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United States Patent and Trademark Office
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Timothy A. French
Fish & Richardson P.C.
225 Boston, MA 02110

Dear Mr. French:

This letter is in response to your communication received 23 January 2008, requesting the status of the U.S. national stage application **10/596,772**.

The United States Designated Office/Elected Office (DO/EO) has docketed the U.S. national application for preparation of the Filing Receipt. However, the USPTO is currently experiencing a backlog of applications awaiting examination. The filing receipt should issue in due course. The appropriate personnel of the Designated Office/Elected Office (DO/EO) to which this application has been assigned have been notified of your request.

Stacy Duncan
Paralegal Specialist
PCT Legal Office
Tel: (571) 272-4989
Fax: (571) 273-0459

in Richard Cole
Sr. Legal Examiner
PCT Legal Office